HF Happenings 724

Radio!

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/ hf_happenings.asp

October
1 – Spring QRP Contest
4 – World habitat Day
6 – SARL 80 m QSO Party
8 and 9 – AWA Valve QSO Party
9 - SARL Youth Net
6 to 9 - Superblast Rocking the Daisies Music and Lifestyle Festival, Darling
10 – All schools open
12 – Yom Kippur
14 to 16 – Jamboree on the Air
15 – CQ Hou Koers
20 – Radio Amateur Examination; National Marine Day
25 - Closing date for November Radio ZS articles
29 and 30 – CQ WW DX SSB Contest

November
5 - RaDAR Challenge
6 - PEARS HF Contest
13 - SARL Youth Net
25 - Closing date for December Radio ZS articles
26 - West Rand Flea market
26 and 27 - CQ WW CW Contest

South African Radio League 80 m QSO Party

The aim of this contest is to create an interest in and activity on the 80 m band. It is a phone only contest that runs from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on Thursday 6 October 2016. Only frequencies in the segment 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz may be used.

The exchange is your call sign, a RS signal report and operator's name. You can participate as a single operator or a Short Wave Listener (SWL). You earn 10 points for every contact with a South African station and 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa.

Log sheets in MS Excel format ONLY must be submitted by 13 October 2016 by e-mail to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za

Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO Party

The aim of the AWA Valve QSO party is to create activity on the 40 and 80 metre bands. It is a phone only contest using AM and SSB. Preferably, valve radios, or radios with valves in them may be used. No linear amplifiers may be used.

The AM QSO Party takes place from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC on Saturday 8 October 2016 and the SSB QSO Party runs from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC on Sunday 9 October 2016. Activity takes place between 7 063 to 7 100 kHz and 3 603 to 3 650 kHz. The output power may not exceed 100 w, unless the rig itself has a higher output power (FTDX400, etc.)

The exchange is your call sign, a RS report, a consecutive serial numbers starting at

001 and the type of radio used, e.g. HT37 TX. You score - All valve radio: 3 points per contact, Hybrid radio: 2 points per contact or Solid State Radio: 1 point per contact

Certificates will be awarded to the first three places in each category – AM and SSB. The log sheets must be submitted by 23 October 2016 to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za.

LOTW password checking change causes problems for some users!

The following was posted on the ARRL Web page on 29 Sept 2016: (Excerpt) "An upgrade to the password-checking mechanism that authenticates Logbook of The World (LoTW) users has caused log-in problems for some clients." The complete post is available at www.arrl.org/news/view/lotw-password-checking-change-causes-problems-for-some-users

Chasing Maidens

Who needs Grid KF39, KF49, KG40, KG41 and KG31 for the Worked All ZS Grids? Carina and I are planning to drive around Lesotho (on the outside) and will be in KF39 on Monday 10 October staying over in Rhodes; in KF49 and KG40 on Tuesday 11 October staying over in Underberg; KG40 and KG41 on Wednesday 12 October to Harrismith and KG41 and KG31 on Saturday 15 October as we drive home to Bloemfontein.

There is a possibility of SOTA on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 October. Send me an e-mail with your needs. Thanks to Roy ZS3RW, and Mike, ZS6AI, for their e-mails.

Raw Scores for CQ RTTY Contest

Raw scores for the CQ WW RTTY Contest have been posted http://cqwwrtty.com/raw.htm. Please inform Ed, W0YK, if there are any discrepancies at w0yk@cqwwrtty.com.

African DX

Nigeria, 5NA. Tom, PA3TG, will be active as 5N/PA3TG from Lagos and Port Harcourt, Nigeria, between 2 and 20 October. Activity will be limited to his spare time during most evenings on 20 meters. His operations from Lagos will be on CW and SSB, while from Port Harcourt will be SSB only. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct w/2 USDs.

Uganda, 5X. Alan, G3XAQ, will once again be active as 5X1XA from Kampala between 12 and 28 November. Activity is usually on 80 to 10 metres CW only and he plans to be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (26 and 27 November). QSL via G3SWH, OQRS or LoTW.

Tanzania, 5H. Maurizio, IK2GZU, will once again return to the "Mission Ilembula" to do some work at the new hospital and orphanage between 7 November and 2 December. He plans to be active during his spare time as 5H3MB on the HF bands. Maurizio will use his FT-100 and the mission's TS-850 into a tri-band 3 element beam (20, 15 and 10 m) fixed on Europe and a vertical or dipole for the other bands. QSL via IK2GZU, direct or by the Bureau. Also, QSL via LoTW (after his return home) and eQSL. For more details, updates and an online log, visit his Web pages at: www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm and www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/qsl%20request.htm

Burkina Faso, XT2. Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as XT2AW from Burkina Faso between 13 and 20 November. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and the digital modes. He states that he works mostly on the digital modes (PSK31, JT65 and RTTY) and slow CW. Equipment is a FT-450D into a homemade HEX beam and a dipole for 40 metres. QSL via M0OXO, direct or OQRS www.m0oxo.com/oqrs/.
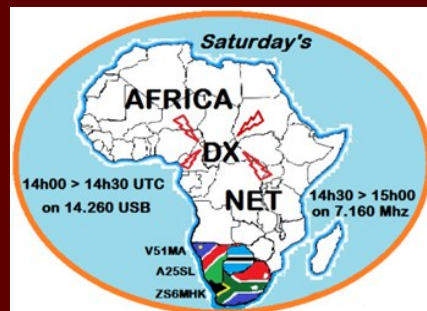
African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Seychelles, S7. Yury, R2DG, is now active as S79PA from Mahe Island (AF-024) until 12 October. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL via his home callsign, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

Saturday's
AFRICA DX NET
14h00 > 14h30 UTC on 14.260 USB
14h30 > 15h00 on 7.160 Mhz
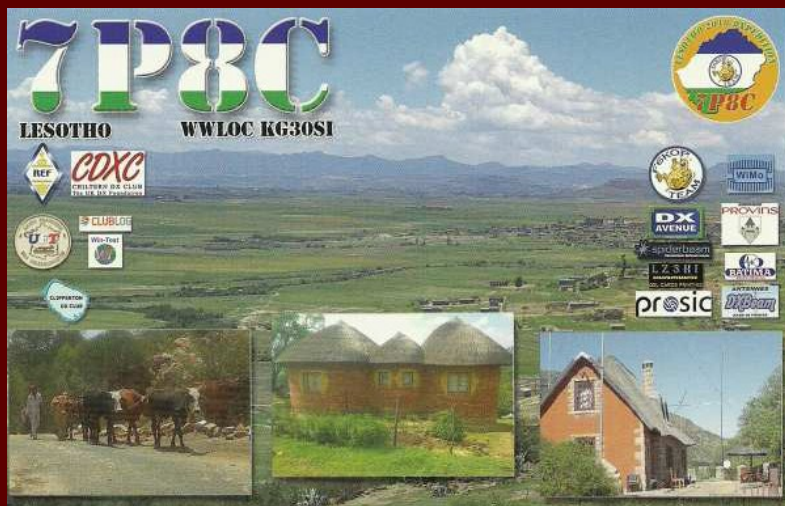V51MA
A25SL
ZS6MHK

Word to the Wise

ESM - "Enter Sends Message." In many logging programs, the progress of the QSO is determined by the information entered for the QSO so far, and pressing the ENTER (or Return) key can send the next message appropriate for the QSO. For example, if no information has been entered, a CQ message is sent. If a call sign has been entered, the exchange information is sent. If all information has been entered, the "thank you" message is sent. Using ESM mode means that for many QSOs, the operator may only have to repeatedly press the ENTER key, reducing cognitive load. This could be especially welcome in the wee hours of the morning.

Operating Tip

Check your coax *before* the contest season. Faulty or degraded coax cable can be the root cause of a number of hard-to-find issues, and you may not even know that you have an issue. Besides checking for open or short circuits, check for degraded or intermittent shielding, or water intrusion if conditions warrant. Many of today's antenna analysers have a setting to measure cable loss; if tracked over time, you will be able to note changes in your station.

South African CW Watering hole
7.030 MHz

Cape Verde, D4. Heiko, DL3VU, YL Barbara, DJ9YL, Dirk, DO4DJT and YL Thea, DO4THA will be active as D44TUL, D44TUN, D44TVA and D44TVF, respectively, from Santiago Island (AF-005) in October. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call sign, direct or by the DARC QSL Bureau.

Ascension Island, ZD8. "The Daily DX" reports that Oliver, W6NV, is heading back to Ascension Island (AF-003) starting in late October through November and will be active as ZD8W. He will arrive on the island on 12 October. Look for him to be in the Worked All Germany Contest and the CQ WW DX SSB Contest as Single-Op entries. Activity outside of the contest will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. Joining him in late November just before the CQ WW DX CW Contest (26 and 27 November), will be Alan, K0AV, who will be active as ZD8V from Ascension between 21 November and 1 December. His activity outside of contest will be on 160 to 10 metres using mainly CW. During the CQ WW DX CW Contest, both operators will sign as ZD8W as a Multi-2 entry. QSL ZD8V via K0AV, LoTW or ClubLog. QSL ZD8W via W6NV.

Rodriguez Island, 3B9. Olof, G0CKV, will once again be active as 3B9HA from Rodriguez Island (AF-017) between 24 November and 12 December. Activity will be holiday style focusing on the low bands and CW. He also plans to be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (26 and 27 November) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via M0OXO or LoTW.

Reverse Beacon Network

Want to check on the air activity for any call sign? DJ1YFK has compiled all the CW and RTTY spots for everyone ever spotted by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), going all the way back to January, 2015.

The activity is displayed in a calendar-style "heat map" that displays, day-by-day, when each station called CQ, and other statistics such as total hours on each band, and activity by time of day. Just go to https://foc.dj1yfk.de/activity/w1aw for an example.

You can substitute any call sign for "w1aw" at the end of the URL, or type any call sign in the search box at the bottom of the page.

Contest Calendar
This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 3 to 10 October 2016

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 October
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 7 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 8 October 2016
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 October
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Un-connected - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC October 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80 m-contests-rules

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest
17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 6 October (Dig)
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 20 October 2016
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html

SARL 80 m QSO Party
17:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 October
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: your call sign, a RS signal report and operator's name
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with South African station
15 points per QSO with non-South African station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 13 October 2016
E-mail logs to: zs5lp@vodamail.co.za
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 7 October
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 9 October 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 October
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 9 October 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprInternationalcom/rules.html

Makrothen RTTY Contest
00:00 – 07:59 UTC and 16:00 - 23:59 UTC 8 October and 08:00 – 15:59 UTC 9 October
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Single Xcvr - low or high Single Op Multi-Xcvr - low or high; Multi-Op Single Xcvr - low or high; Multi-Op Multi-Xcvr - low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: 4-character grid square
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per km distance between stations for each QSO; Multiply QSO points by 1.5 for 40 m QSOs or 2.0 for 80 m QSOs; 100 points per QSO between stations in same grid square (no other points or multiplier)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 15 November 2016
E-mail logs to: tmc-rtty@arcor.de
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch/The_Makrothen_Contest/TMC_Rules.html

Oceania DX CW Contest
08:00 UTC 8 October to 08:00 UTC 9 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-One; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi; SWL
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 20 points per 160 m QSO; 10 points per 80 m QSO; 5 points per 40 m QSO; 1 point per 20 m QSO; 2 points per 15 m QSO; 3 points per 10 m QSO
Multipliers: Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 October 2016
E-mail logs to: cw@oceaniadxcontest.com
Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/oceaniadxcw_cab.php
Mail logs to: Oceania DX Contest, PO Box 21088, Little Lonsdale Street, Victoria 8011, Australia
Find rules at: http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/rules.pdf

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB
12:00 UTC 8 October to 12:00 UTC 9 October
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Single Xmtr - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Xmtr Assisted - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Low Band; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: Scandinavian: 2 points per QSO with EU; Scandinavian: 3 points per QSO with non-EU; EU: 1 point per QSO with Scandinavian station; non-EU: 1 point per QSO with Scandinavian station on 20, 15, 10 m; non-EU: 3 points per QSO with Scandinavian station on 80, 40 m
Multipliers: Scandinavian: Each DXCC country once per band; non-Scandinavian: Each Scandinavian call area once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 16 October 2016
Upload log at: http://www.sactest.net/robot/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
12:00 UTC 8 October to 24:00 UTC 9 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 16 October 2016
Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Arizona QSO Party
16:00 UTC 8 October to 06:00 UTC 9 October and 14:00 - 23:59 UTC 9 October
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op Single Transmitter - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - QRP, low or high; Multi/Multi - QRP, low or high; Mobile - QRP, low or high; County Expedition - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: AZ: Serial no, state and county; non-AZ: Serial no and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode per county
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO; Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with WM7RC
Multipliers: AZ: Each US state, province and country once per mode; non-AZ: Each AZ county once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 31 October 2015
E-mail logs to: logs@azqsoparty.org
Mail logs to: AZQP, PO Box 17811, Tucson, AZ 85731, USA
Find rules at: http://www.azqsoparty.org/rules.html

Pennsylvania QSO Party
16:00 UTC 8 October to 05:00 UTC 9 October and 13:00 - 22:00 UTC 9 October
Mode: CW, Phone, PSK, RTTY
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP, medium or high; Single Op CW (150 W); Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Single Op Portable; Multi-Op Portable; Mobile Single Op; Mobile Multi-Op; Rover Single Op; Rover Multi-Op; Remote Station
Max power: HP: >150 watts; MP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: PA: Serial no and County; non-PA: Serial no and ARRL or RAC Section
Work stations: Once per band per mode per county
QSO Points: 2 points per CW QSO; 1 point per SSB/FM QSO; 2 points per PSK/RTTY QSO; PA Mobile Bonus: 500 points for each county operated from with minimum of 10 QSOs; PA Rover Bonus: 500 points for each location operated from with minimum of 10 QSOs; W3UU Bonus: 200 points for each QSO with W3UU
Multipliers: PA Stations: Each ARRL section, RAC section, PA county once; PA Stations: One DX country; non-PA Stations: Each PA county once; QRP Bonus: multiply score by 2 for QRP operation
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults x bonus mult) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 15 November 2016
E-mail logs to: paqsolog@nittany-arc.net
Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/paqp_cab3.php
Mail logs to: PA QSO Party 2016, c/o NARC, PO Box 614, State College, PA 16804-0614, USA
Find rules at: http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/PAQSO%202016%20Rules.pdf

FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint
17:00 - 21:00 UTC 8 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: QRP; QRO; Club
Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 7 November 2016

E-mail logs to: n2ed@fistsna.org

Mail logs to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Ed Wlodarski N2ED, 3 Shore Rd., Andover, NJ 07821-2240, USA

Find rules at: http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints

PODXS 070 Club 160 m Great Pumpkin Sprint

20:00 UTC 8 October to 20:00 UTC 9 October

Mode: PSK31

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: QRP; Low Power Medium Power

Max power: Medium Power: 100 watts; Low Power: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point/QSO

Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://hamclubs.info/scorer/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/160 m-great-pumpkin-sprint

North American SSB Sprint Contest

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 October

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max operating hours: 4 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts' QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state and DC (including KL7 and KH6) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 16 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at: http://ssbsprInternationalcom/submit-log/

Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM, 12450 Del Valle Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, USA

Find rules at: http://ssbsprInternationalcom/rules/

UBA ON CW Contest

06:00 - 09:00 UTC 9 October

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: ON: RST, serial no and ON section; non-ON: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station

Multipliers: Each UBA Section

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 October 2016

E-mail logs to: ubaon@uba.be

Mail logs to: Leon Welters, ON5WL, Borgstraat 80, B-2580 Beerzel, Belgium

Find rules at: http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/on-contest

10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint

00:01 - 23:59 UTC 10 October

Mode: All

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

Work stations: Once

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 25 October 2016

E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA

Find rules at: http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 12 October

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 October

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 October

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 October

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 14 October

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 14 October

MCG Autumn Sprint, 15:00 - 19:00 UTC 14 October

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, 00:00 UTC 15 October to 24:00 UTC 16 October

10-10 International Fall Contest, CW, 00:01 UTC 15 October to 23:59 UTC 16 October

New York QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 15 October to 02:00 UTC 16 October

Iowa QSO Party, 14:00 - 23:00 UTC 15 October

Worked All Germany Contest, 15:00 UTC 15 October to 14:59 UTC 16 October

South Dakota QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 15 October to 18:00 UTC 16 October

Feld Hell Sprint, 20:00 - 23:59 UTC 15 October

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW, 00:00 UTC-02:00 UTC 16 October

Illinois QSO Party, 17:00 UTC 16 October to 01:00 UTC 17 October

RSGB RoLo CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 16 October

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 17 October

ARRL School Club Roundup, 13:00 UTC 17 October to 23:59 UTC 21 October

Telephone Pioneers QSO Party, 19:00 UTC 17 October to 03:00 UTC 18 October

VHF Happenings

432 MHz Fall Sprint
19:00 – 23:00 local 5 October
Mode: not specified
Bands: 432 MHz
Classes: Single Op; Rover
Exchange: 6-character grid square
QSO Points: 1 points per QSO
Multipliers: Each grid square
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 October 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://svhfs.org/2016_Fall_Sprint_Rules.pdf

Microwave Fall Sprint
08:00 – 14:00 local 8 October
Mode: not specified
Bands: 902 MHz and above
Classes: Single Op Rover
Exchange: 6-character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per km between end points of each QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22 October 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://svhfs.org/2016_Fall_Sprint_Rules.pdf

UBA ON 2 m Contest, 06:00 – 10:00 UTC 16 October

Cheap Antennas

One of the ways to be successful in VHF and above contests is to use as many bands as possible and move contacts to other bands. If you need some inexpensive Yagis, WA5JVB's designs for cheap antennas may help you out http://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf.

Measurements

The AMSAT news service published a link to an article on using your fist to estimate angular measurements of the sky using your hands and fingers. For example, by holding your fist at arm's length while gazing at the back of your hand, you can measure approximately 10 degrees. Other measurements between 1 and 25 degrees are possible with different hand gestures. http://oneminuteastronomer.com/860/measuring-sky/.

HF Happenings